

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1 1. A computer user interface device, for use by a user for communicating  
2 information to a computer, the user interface device comprising:  
3 a first module for producing a first set of user function signals based on user  
4 input operations;  
5 a second module for producing a second set of user function signals based  
6 on user input operations;  
7 means for coupling the first module with the second module; and  
8 circuitry for coupling the first and second user function signals to the  
9 computer.

1 2. A computer user interface device as recited in claim 1, wherein:  
2 the first module is a standard module; and  
3 the second module is a specialty module, selected from a set of different  
4 types of specialty modules.

1 3. A computer user interface device as recited in claim 1, wherein the first module  
2 includes a keyboard.

1 4. A computer user interface device as recited in claim 1, wherein the selected  
2 specialty module is selected from a set of specialty modules including:  
3 (i) a multimedia control module,  
4 (ii) a game control module;  
5 (iii) a reader module for reading information stored on a storage module;  
6 (iv) a Universal Serial Bus (USB) interface module; and  
7 (v) a joystick module.

1 5. A computer user interface device as recited in claim 1, wherein the means for  
2 coupling includes:

3 a mechanical coupling structure on the first module; and  
4 a mechanical coupling structure on the second module, complementary with  
5 the mechanical coupling structure on the first module.

1 6. A computer user interface device as recited in claim 5, wherein one of the  
2 mechanical coupling structures includes a cavity.

1 7. A computer user interface device as recited in claim 5, wherein the mechanical  
2 coupling structures include electrical connectors.

1 8. A computer user interface device as recited in claim 1, wherein the circuitry for  
2 coupling the first and second user function signals to the computer includes:

3 first circuitry on one of the first and second modules, for producing first user  
4 input signals from the one module;

5 second circuitry on the other of the first and second modules, for producing  
6 second user input signals from the other module;

7 a first electrical coupling for providing the first user input signals to the other  
8 module;

9 consolidation circuitry for producing a signal stream based on the first and  
10 second user input signals; and

11 a second electrical coupling for providing the signal stream to the computer.

1 9. A computer user interface device as recited in claim 8, wherein:

2 the one of the first and second modules is a standard module; and

3 the other of the first and second modules is a specialty module.